

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S INDE-
PENDENCE DAY DINNER AT SELANGOR CLUB,
KUALA LUMPUR ON 4TH JULY, 1962

Mr Chairman, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When your Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Baldwin, invited me to be the guest of honour of the American Association's dinner tonight, I was very happy indeed to accept not only because this is a great day of the year for Americans everywhere but also because of the ties of friendship which link our two countries.

It also enables me to stop still for a while as I get around quite a bit in this country—I think the word for it is “hustle”—so having to rearrange my programme or schedule—though you call it "schedule" it amounts to the same thing—I thought it would do me a lot of good to meet with a lot of hustlers like yourselves (and I am sure it will do you good too) so that we could all enjoy the refreshment of a happy occasion well worth celebrating.

Sometimes in life there are occasions when there are things one does not have to do but one does it with will and pleasure, and for me this is one such occasions. However, I did not expect to receive a tribute such as you, Mr Chairman, have kindly given me this evening, and I thank you most warmly.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your Members for having formed the American Association. The size of the gathering tonight is the tribute to the great and growing interest your country and your citizens are taking in the development and the progress of the Federation of Malaya. It is a tribute too, to the ardent sense of patriotism (one's country right or wrong) which all Americans share. I am also happy to see that Americans in Malaya have lived up to the spirit of the motto of your Great Seal—E Pluribus Unum—and that the many have become one in the American Association.

When I was thinking of the few remarks that I have been making tonight I had quite a chuckle because I realise that as the first Guest of Honour of the first big function organised by the

American Association I was the one who knew little of **America**. I had the honour and the pleasure of paying a short visit to the States many years ago. Though I had only a momentary glance of the Golden Gate, I did not have the opportunity of knowing how grand your Grand Canyon is or how great Niagara Falls are, nor have I met Marilyn **Monroo**.

However, even if I know little of the United States, I have been following with conviction your ideals of freedom and democracy. We in the Federation of Malaya, old in history but young in nationhood, are proud to share in the great inheritance of liberty emerging with the Declaration of Independence which this day celebrates. With noble act of faith in one another, pledged with lives, fortunes and honour, that great charter of freedom still echoes in the heart of man and inspires him in the endless quest for truth and justice. We in the Federation of Malaya are as one with you in the belief that all men are created equal with **unalienable** rights. Therefore, all free men everywhere owe a lasting debt, honour and respect to those who signed their names on that eventful day in Philadelphia 180 years ago when your great nation was born.

From that noble action of theirs flowed the whole sequence of events of an amazing story of courage and struggle, of progress and development which has transformed in many ways the lives and thoughts, and indeed the destiny of man. It is right and fitting that all who love freedom and democracy should join with all Americans in pride and tribute to the historic anniversary, and I do with very great pleasure indeed.

Mr Chairman, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you very much indeed for the privilege you have conferred upon me of being your guest of honour tonight, and for giving my wife and myself the opportunity of joining with you in the celebration of your great National Day.